

Manure Management Task Force

Eau Claire Public Information Session

11-2 pm

Task force members present: Brian Rude, Jay Richardson, Bob Selk, and Monty Wick

Task Force Co-Chair Brian Rude introduced the other Task Force members present. In addition to Task Force members and agency staff, approximately 15 members of the public were in attendance. Gordon Stevenson presented a PowerPoint slide show summarizing the genesis of the Task force, its charge, membership and recommendations. Public comment followed, with 6 individuals speaking. Their testimony is summarized below. On five appearance cards were turned in; only 3 of them included written comments. The results from the written comments are tabulated below.

Greg Erickson-Eau Claire County Land Conservation Committee

- one size does not fit all; daily hauling must occur in some instances
- overapplication is the biggest problem; i.e 52 events
- nutrient management plans work if followed
- more money needed for nutrient management planning
- don't forget that pollution comes from all people, not just farmers

Will Fantle-Eau Claire County Board

- state-imposed county revenue caps has impeded capability of Eau Claire County to assist with funding of nutrient management plans for farmers

Larry Buttke-farmer

- banning winter spreading is impractical; not enough money available for cost-sharing to achieve that

Duane Popple-DNR

- recommendations are a good start but not a cure-all
- Task Force should continue its work and develop more recommendations
- county government should be more involved with livestock waste problems
- remember that livestock production is a good industry,; don't judge everyone by the problems caused by a few. Most do a good job
- Spreading advisory proposal may give a false sense of safety. The real key is field conditions during any season of the year
- The other key is producer education
- The industry could be hurt if bans based on calendar dates are adopted
- commercial haulers are like producers: most do a good job. The few who don't need educating.
- smaller livestock operations have and will continue to benefit from the experiences and advancing technologies of larger operations.

Jerry Meister-farmer

- we must use common sense
- public must be patient with this industry
- positive change is occurring but it can't happen overnight.

Jan Morrow-Dairy Farmer

- Maine and Vermont have an excellent idea: ban winter spreading. However, existing farms should be grandfathered and allowed to continue winter spreading [Ms. Morrow noted that she practices winterspreading]
- The 590 standard does not ban winter spreading
- producers need to better understand the difference between aerobic and anaerobic manure
- big farms should be required to have enough storage
- society needs more medium and small farms
- big farms can cause spills and may mistreat livestock
- all the government grants seem to be going to big farms

Delroy Leslie-energy consultant/biogas digesters

- Wisconsin spends \$10.7 billion for energy produced out of state
- farm biogas digestion would retain some of the \$10.7 B in Wisconsin
- manure that has been through a digester can be liquid/solid separated and made germ-free
- the state should invest more in digesters

Summary of Eau Claire Written Comments on MMTF Recommendations

1	Increase use of winter spreading plans, manure hauling procedures and emergency response plans	Yes-3 (2 of which advocated ban on winterspreading)
2	Improve data collection on manure runoff events	Yes-3
3	Improve research efforts through better coordination of priorities	Yes-3 (1 of which said to concentrate on larger farms because they cause more pollution)
4	Develop manure spreading advisory or notification system	Yes-3
5	Provide more cost-sharing for nutrient management plans	Yes-3 (1 of which said should not be required without adequate funding)
6	Improve emergency response with focus on farmer planning	Yes-2 Undecided-1
7	License or certify manure haulers	Yes-2 (1 of which said enforcement needed as well) No-1

8	Compensate landowners for manure contaminated wells	Yes-2 Undecided-1
9	Pilot test regional program that promotes superior environmental performance by offering limited enforcement	Yes-2 Undecided-1
	Other	“Put a buffer between streams and spreading. 300-500’ buffer” “Please keep open mind about winter spreading during certain months”